

Message Text

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70

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-13 CAB-09 COME-00 EB-11 FAA-00

CU-04 MBFR-04 SAJ-01 NEA-10 NIC-01 DRC-01 /170 W

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R 191645Z SEP 73

FM USMISSION BERLIN

TO AMEMBASSY BONN

SECSTATE WASHDC 2428

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, ETRN, WB, SU

SUBJECT: OPENING OF AEROFLOT OFFICE IN WEST BERLIN

1. OPENING OF AEROFLOT OFFICE ENVISAGED IN QA AGREED MINUTE II WAS OCCASION FOR RECEPTION SEPTEMBER 19 ATTENDED BY SOVIET AMBASSADOR IN EAST BERLIN YEFREMOV, WHO USED OPPORTUNITY TO SUGGEST THAT WEST BERLIN REPORTERS WRITE MORE ABOUT SOVIET-GERMAN TRADE. HE COMPLAINED WEST BERLIN PAPERS GIVE TOO MUCH PLAY TO NEGATIVE SIDES OF SOVIET POLICIES. YEFREMOV SAID HE WOULD TALK WITH LEADING COMRADES IN SOVIET UNION AND MAKE THEM WRITE ARTICLES FOR PUBLICATION IN WEST BERLIN NEWSPAPER MORGENPOST (CONSERVATIVE). IN ANSWER TO QUESTION, HE SAID HE WAS ALL FOR WEST BERLIN REPORTERS WRITING ARTICLES FOR PRAVDA PROVIDED ARTICLES CONTAINED NO INVECTIVE AGAINST USSR.

2. MANAGER OF NEW OFFICE, KUCHUGURNIY, EXPLAINED AEROFLOT WAS NOW REPRESENTED IN WEST BERLIN BECAUSE INCREASING NUMBER OF BERLINERS TRAVEL TO SOVIET UNION - 20,000 LAST YEAR. HE SAID OPENING DEMONSTRATED

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CONTINUING DEVELOPMENT OF CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC TIES (VERBINDUNGEN)
BETWEEN USSR AND WEST BERLIN.

3. SENAT HAS INFORMED ALLIES THAT SENAT AVIATION
OFFICIAL (BENTZIEN) USED OCCASION TO PUT IN PLUG WITH
SOVIET AMBASSADOR YEFREMOV FOR LUFTHANSA STOPOVER AT
TEGEL ENROUTE MOSCOW.

4. SENAT AND BERLIN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE WERE REPRE-
SENTED BY SECOND-LEVEL OFFICIALS, SENAT HAVING REJECTED
AEROFLOT FEELER TO SENATOR FOR ECONOMICS; LATTER,
HOWEVER, SENT GREETINGS. U.S. MISSION RECEIVED NO
INVITATIONS, BRITISH AND FRENCH DECLINED THEIRS. IN
CONTRAST TO SOVIET TRADE FAIR IN MAY, WHEN SOVIET
EMBASSY COUNSELLOR BELETSKIY SHOVED FRG STATE SECRETARY
AWAY FROM HIS AMBASSADOR AND GOVERNING MAYOR, THIS TIME
BELETSKIY USED HIS STRONG ARM TO MAKE SURE CHAMBER
OFFICIAL (AS WEST BERLIN REPRESENTATIVE) GOT INTO PICTURE
WITH YEFREMOV.KLEIN

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